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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 001852

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [RW](#) [CG](#) [MOPP](#)

SUBJECT: FIRST JOINT VERIFICATION MECHANISM MEETING IMMINENT

Classified By: AMBASSADOR ROGER MEECE. REASON 1.5 (B/D)

11. (C) U.N. SRSG Bill Swing reported to members of the International Committee to Accompany the Transition (CIAT) October 4 that he is leaving Kinshasa later the same day for travel to Kigali in preparation for convening the first meeting of the Joint Verification Mechanism (JVM) tomorrow, October 5, in the border area. Swing noted that the Rwandan delegation to this first JVM meeting will be headed by Ambassador Richard Sezibera; the GDRC delegation will be headed by Ambassador Antoine Ghonda.

12. (U) The JVM agreement was reached two weeks ago per terms of reference prepared by the U.N. in New York following receipt of proposed changes to an earlier draft from the Kigali government. All Congolese officials with whom embosffs have spoken have expressed satisfaction at getting the JVM off the ground and operating.

13. (C) Comment: Ghonda is heading the Congolese delegation in his new capacity as Ambassador-at-large in the Presidency. He was appointed to the job a little over a week ago by President Kabila following his removal as Foreign Minister by opposition MLC leader Jean-Pierre Bemba. Ghonda continues to enjoy Kabila,s confidence, although Bemba and MLC leaders are deeply unhappy by the new Ghonda appointment. Officially, Ghonda has not yet resigned from the MLC. President Kabila and just about all Congolese leaders have been saying for months that they want to the JVM to start operating as soon as possible, and this first meeting is welcome in GDRC offices as well as by MONUC as a positive move forward. End comment.

MEECE